

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE FAMILY OXYOPIDAE  
FROM GUJARAT, INDIA, WITH NOTES ON OTHER SPECIES  
OF THE FAMILY<sup>1</sup>

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(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Oxyopidae have received scant attention in India. Pocock (1900) described four species of the genus *Oxyopes* Latr. Stoliczka (1869) described a new species of genus *Peucetia* from India. Sherriffs (1951) redescribed and figured Pocock's species of *Oxyopes* from Oriental Region. Dyal (1935) described a new species of *Oxyopes* from Lahore. Recently Tikader (1965, 1969 and 1970) described twelve new species of the genus *Oxyopes* and two of the genus *Peucetia* from India. Very recently Biswas (1975) described *P. harishankarensis* as a new species from Orissa, India.

While examining my collection made from different districts of Gujarat State during the period from 1967 to 1975, I came across three species of *Oxyopes* and two species of *Peucetia*, among which one is described here as a new species. The other four species are first records from Gujarat.

Type specimens will be deposited in due course in the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Peucetia akwadaensis* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1, a-f)

*General*: Abdomen brightly green in colour, cephalothorax and legs light green in colour.

Total length 11.14 mm. Carapace 4.57 mm long, 3.52 mm wide; abdomen 6.57 mm long, 2.78 mm wide.

*Cephalothorax*: Longer than wide, moderately high, clothed with fine hairs and few spines. Cephalic region high and broad, separated by a distinct cervical groove; clypeus high with brown discontinuous stripes in front and provided with two black hairs. Centre of the thorax provided with a fovea. Eyes of anterior row strongly recurved so as to form two distinct rows of two eyes each; as in Fig. 1, b; anterior medians smallest. Posterior row slightly procurved, posterior laterals are slightly smaller than the posterior medians, base of all eyes encircled by black. Ocular quad longer than broad, narrowing posteriorly. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, projected in between the coxae IV, clothed with fine hairs and black spines. Maxillae elongate, scopulate at the anterior ends. Sternum, labium and maxillae as in fig. 1, d. Chelicerae long, vertical with two long spines nearer to the base, fange groove unarmed with a short curved fang. Legs long, brownish green, covered with hairs and many long spines, bases of all spines with a dark spot, the legs provided with two pectinate and one small median tarsal claws. Legs 1, 2, 3, 4. Tibiae I and II with three pairs and III and IV with two pairs of ventral spines; metatarsi of all legs provided with three pairs and one median apical ventral spines. Femora of

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all legs with three, patella with two, tibia with one dorsal spines and metatarsi are provided with three pairs of dorsal spines. Leg length of the female is as under: measurements are in mm.:

	I	II	III	IV
Femur	6.57	6.15	5.00	4.89
Patella	1.37	0.94	1.00	0.84
Tibia	3.78	5.84	3.68	4.10
Metatarsus	6.94	5.89	4.57	3.94
Tarsus	3.78	2.89	1.89	1.73
Total	22.44	21.71	16.14	15.50

*Abdomen*: Longer than wide, narrowing behind, bright green in colour with white patches, clothed with fine hairs. Dorsal side with a mid-dorsal dark coloured broad band, out side of which on both the sides a white stripe extends upto the posterior end of abdomen. In between these white stripes symmetrically arranged white patches are present as in Fig. 1, a. Ventral side is lighter in colour with dark white bands. Epigyne as seen in Fig. 1, c.

Male is similar in colour but little smaller than the female (total length 9.50 mm). Male palpal structure as in fig. 1, e and f.

*Holotype* female, *Paratypes* two females, *Allotype* one male in spirit.

*Type-locality*: Akwada, Dist. Bhavnagar, c. 4 kilometres south of Bhavnagar, 25.ix.1973. Coll. B. H. Patel. Also collected from Vallabh Vidyanagar, Dist. Kheda, 15.viii.1975. Coll. B. H. Patel.

This species resembles *Peucetia choprai* Tikader but is separated as follows: (i) Cephalic region distinctly separated by a cervical groove, but in *P. choprai* a distinct groove is absent. (ii) Clypeus with discontinuous stripes, but in *P. choprai* two brown lines extend from anterior median eyes to nearer the base of fang of chelicerae. (iii) Arrangement of white and

dark stripes and bands on the abdomen is markedly different. (iv) Structure of female epigyne as well as male palp also differ.

**Oxyopes wroughtoni** Pocock

*Oxyopes wroughtoni* Pocock, 1901.

*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 13:483.

*SPECIMENS EXAMINED*: 3 ♀ and 3 ♂, Vallabh Vidyanagar, District Kheda, 15.ix.1967. 4 ♀ and 1 ♂, Anand, Dist. Kheda, 23.ix.1967. 2 ♀ Agas, Dist. Kheda, 4.x.1968. 6 ♀ and 2 ♂ Ahwa, Dist. Dangs, 2.xii.1968. 3 ♀ Baroda, Dist. Baroda, 9.vii.1970. 2 ♀ and 2 ♂ Ambaji, Dist. Banaskantha, 21.viii.1970. 1 ♂ Ahmedabad, Dist. Ahmedabad, 22.viii.1970. 2 ♀ Napad, Dist. Kheda, 21.ix.1970. Coll. B. H. Patel.

*Distribution*: India: Lahore; Bulsar, Kheda, Ahwa, Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Banaskantha Districts in Gujarat.

**Oxyopes sitae** Tikader

*Oxyopes sitae* Tikader, 1970.

*Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, 44:75.

*SPECIMENS EXAMINED*: 2 ♀ and 2 ♂ Ahwa, Dist. Dangs, 17.viii.1970. Coll. B. H. Patel.

*Distribution*: India: Rohtak, West Sikkim; Ahwa Dist. in Gujarat.

**Oxyopes chittrae** Tikader

*Oxyopes chittrae* Tikader, 1965. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, Sec. B, 62:140.

*SPECIMENS EXAMINED*: 4 ♀ Ahwa, Dist. Dangs, 30.vi.1969. 2 ♀ Napad, Dist. Kheda, 2.viii.1970. Coll. B. H. Patel.

*Distribution*: India: Poona, Maharashtra; Ahwa and Dangs Districts in Gujarat.

**Peucetia latikae** Tikader

*Peucetia latikae* Tikader, 1970.

*Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, 64:80.

*SPECIMENS EXAMINED*: 4 ♀ Ahwa, Dist. Dangs, 25.xii.1967. Coll. B. H. Patel.

*Distribution*: India: Manjithar, West Sikkim; Ahwa District in Gujarat.

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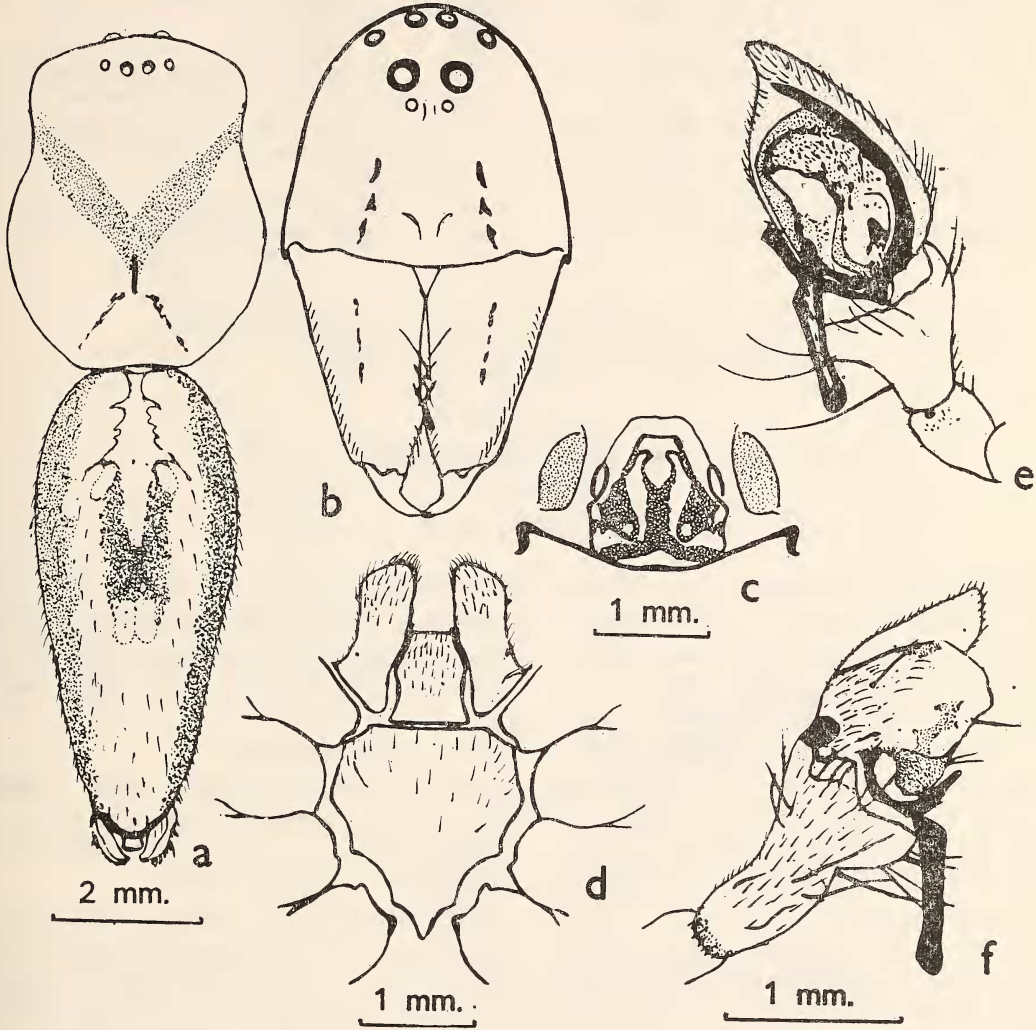


Fig. 1. (a-f). *Peucetia akwadaensis* sp. nov.

a. Dorsal view of female (legs omitted); b. Head—front view; c. Epigyne; d. Sternum, labium and maxillae; e. Male palp—ventral view; f. Male palp—dorsal view.

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A NEW VARIETY OF *GLYCINE WIGHTII* SUBSP. *WIGHTII*  
VERDCOURT FROM SOUTH INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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East Asian species described by different authors as *Glycine javanica* is quite different from Linnaeus's species of that name which as proved by Verdcourt (Taxon, Vol. xv (i), pp. 34-36; 1966) is *Pueraria montana* (Lour.) Merrill. The east Asiatic species known as *Glycine javanica* auct. mult. non. Linn. has now been named as *Glycine wightii* (R. Grah. ex Wight & Arn.) Verdcourt enumerates 3 subsp. of, *G. wightii* as:— (1) *wightii*, (2) *petitiana* and (3) *pseudojavanica*.

*G. wightii* subsp. *wightii* again 2 varieties namely, var. *wightii* and var. *longicaudata*, the former being found in India. While examining the sheets of the above named taxon it was noticed that all collections do not represent identical variety. Some specimens collected from S. India differ in being less hairy, having

more elongated raceme and flowers more lax on the axis, not so much overlapping as in the typical variety. These specimens therefore are considered to represent a new variety under subsp. *wightii*.

This is described below:—

*Glycine wightii* Verdcourt subsp. ***wightii***  
Verdcourt var. ***coimbatorensis*** var. nov.

Haec varietas a typo sparse pubescentis, racemes laxis, elongatis recedit.

*Plants* suberect, stem slender, solid, *internodes* long, 7-12 cm, glabrous, except a few scattered hairs. *Leaves* tri-foliolate; leaflets 5.9-6.6 cm long, 4.6-5.9 cm broad, entire, ovate, acute, with a few adpressed hairs on both surfaces, petiole glabrous, almost hairless, 3-5 cm long, petiolules 15 mm long, a pair of 7 mm long *stipules* at the base of leaves, a pair of 2.5 mm - 30 mm long *stipels* at the base of each leaflet. *Inflorescence* race-

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